July 29, 2003

Dear Nominator:

The National Medal of Technology, the Nation's highest honor for technological achievement, is presented annually by the President of the United States. This program was first established by an act of Congress, and the Department of Commerce is proud to be entrusted with its management. We are beginning the process for selecting the 2004 medal laureates, and it is my pleasure to open the call for nominations.

The National Medal of Technology recognizes American innovators who have made lasting contributions to advancing our global competitiveness, economic prosperity, and quality of life. These pioneers in the amazing world of science and technology are American heroes. They are explorers and risk-takers who have pushed out the boundaries of science and technology for the benefit of humankind. Their groundbreaking contributions have helped bring useful technologies to market, create jobs, increase U.S. productivity, and stimulate the Nation's economic development.

The Medal program highlights the importance of fostering the basic research and technological innovation that lead to commercially successful products and services. Past National Medal of Technology laureates continue to serve as role models for America's students by showing what they can achieve if they study science and math and apply what they learn.

The deadline for submitting 2004 nominations is October 30, 2003. Nominations will be reviewed by the National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee, a panel of accomplished experts from the science and technology communities whose recommendations will be forwarded to me. My recommendations will then be sent to the President for the final decision on the Laureates for the 2004 National Medal of Technology.

The President and I deeply appreciate your time and effort to nominate an individual, team, company, or organization for the 2004 National Medal of Technology. We value your assistance in encouraging others to identify high-quality candidates for the award and for all that you do to advance the cause of science and technology. Your efforts are fundamental to our ability to find and honor America's great achievers and to inspire the next generation of innovators.

Donald L. Evans